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# The Times

MINDEN ONTARIO

Season's Greetings section inside

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## Danielsen warden three years running

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen will again serve as Haliburton County warden after a tie vote by county councillors between Danielsen and contender Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin during the county inaugural meeting on Dec. 15 was broken with a name being drawn from an envelope.

Like other council meetings amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, that meeting took place with councillors participating remotely via online conferencing app Zoom, and was broadcast to the public on YouTube.

In late November, both Devolin and Danielsen expressed interest in becoming warden for the upcoming year, making speeches to their colleagues. The warden is the head of county council, which consists of the mayor and deputy mayor of each of the county's four lower-tier municipalities, and members of county council decide annually who'll fill the role for the upcoming year. Danielsen has served as warden for the past two years, and Devolin previously held the role in 2017. During the Dec. 15 meeting,

see TIE VOTE page 2



### Expressing your inner elf

Archie Stouffer Elementary School student Haileigh Gallagher shows off her festive look at the end of the Grade 1/2 gym class on Thursday, Dec. 10 in Minden. With COVID-19 protocols in place, the school holds gym classes outside in the yard and in the wooded area at the back of the school. /DARREN LUM Staff

## Long wait ahead for vaccinations

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

With the approval of the first COVID-19 vaccine in the country by Health Canada last

week, shipments began to roll into the provinces this week, with the first inoculations being administered.

However, as Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin noted during a Dec. 9 council meeting, it will likely be later in 2021 before many residents get an opportunity to be vaccinated.

The province has created a three-phase framework for the rollout of vaccinations. Part of the first phase, which was getting underway this week, was the vaccination of some 2,500 healthcare workers in Toronto and Ottawa with the Pfizer-BioNTech vac-

see PROVINCE page 2

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# Destination plan recommends more workforce development

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

Stronger workforce development and a better alignment between the efforts of local governments and private businesses are among the suggestions in a destination development plan for the Haliburton Highlands, the final version of which Haliburton County councillors received during a Dec. 9 meeting.

The county hired Vancouver-based firm MMGY NextFactor in 2019 to compile the plan, which looks at ways to develop the Haliburton Highlands as a tourism destination and also to market it in a more widespread fashion. The process has included a number of public input sessions with county residents, officials and stakeholders, including focus groups and town hall meetings. As Greg Oates, vice president of innovation with the firm, noted during last week's meeting, the compilation of the plan for the Highlands took longer than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing a delay in the process.

"In tourism, we're looking at trying to compel visitors to continue to come back," Oates said. "... When visitors return to a destination, it's not because they want to feel like a tourist, it's because they want to feel like they're part of a community and they identify with that community."

In that way, Oates said its important that the majority of county residents be in agreement about the importance of tourism to the county's economy, and how everyone is essentially connected to it in some way.

"The belief in the value of tourism is just as important as the overall destination infrastructure, and the overall visitor experience," he said.

"Tourism development is about much more than just marketing when you look at all of things that need to happen," Oates added. "... Probably the biggest challenge we see, and where there's the most room for immediate gains, is this lack of alignment between the public and private sectors, and you often have goals and initiatives being put forth by private interests, but when you look what happens within a city, a town, a county hall, and council, there isn't always necessarily, if not an agreed upon alliance, just an awareness of what everyone's doing."

One of the many recommendations from a service delivery review the county recently had completed for itself and its



Haliburton County councillors receive a final destination development plan for the Haliburton Highlands during an online meeting Dec. 9. /Screenshot

four lower-tier municipalities, was the creation of an overarching economic development position that would serve all five local governments and co-ordinate economic development activities.

While feedback data showed many residents are pleased with and have confidence in the county's #MyHaliburtonHighlands branding and its marketing efforts, the response was less glowing regarding local workforce development.

"Workforce development in the Haliburton Highlands, however, was especially glaring in how it compares behind other communities that have participated in DestinationNEXT," the plan reads.

The plan also touched on the county's lack of a public transportation system.

"Our goal is to really drive home the idea that mobility equals opportunity," Oates said. "The easier it is to get around, the easier it is to spend money."

"I think there's some small pieces in here that we've been trying to leverage over the past 20 years," said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt, "but there's lots of challenges that have come with that. But it's really wonderful to see them captured, connected in one place, focused, and we've got a document that can be the foundation for moving forward."

"The piece that resonates the most with me is the community alignment piece," Moffatt said. "And this is a tremendous body of work that's come from the public and its success or

its failure is only going to rely on the community's ability and willingness to work together. There has been, historically, over a long, long time, a disappointing amount of in-fighting and criticism and what's that old saying, blowing out someone else's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter? So, I just look forward to seeing this move forward."

Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy questioned how many more visitors or residents the Haliburton Highlands needed, particularly with more people staying in the area for longer periods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think this plan has come forward at a very unique time," Kennedy said. "I think that what you've given us is your thoughts on looking to the vision of five years from now, [when] we're already there."

"We're now seeing lineups at grocery stores in November to get in, we're now seeing lineups at our gas stations, gas stations running out of gas, increased demands for services," Kennedy said. "I think this is an opportunity for us to take a look at this, but we also have to hit the pause button. I think we have to ask, how many is too many? Our lakes are overcrowded, there's people there to the max every week now. Higher demands on waste management, all of infrastructure."

"The other part of it is workforce," Kennedy said. "We've had a huge number of people decide to move here ... The people have moved here, they're looking for work. There isn't work that's year-round, sustainable, good-paying jobs."

## Province introduces three-phase rollout

from page 1

cine as part of a COVID-19 vaccine readiness pilot project.

The second phase will include vaccines being administered to healthcare workers, residents of long-term care facilities and retirement homes, as well as home-care patients with chronic conditions and certain Indigenous populations.

"Into the third phase, which probably affects most of us, it will go through the balance of the year," Devolin said. "There's still a lot of unknowns and I think in the next month or two will be answered."

"We're all happy and anxious to see that this is on its way, but not as fast as any of us would like."

## Tie vote broken with name draw

from page 1

following remarks by councillors who'd supported the nominations of Danielsen and Devolin, council took a 15-minute break so that councillors could vote electronically.

"Consistent with the theme of the year 2020, where everything is just a little more complicated, we did have a tie vote," chief administrative officer Mike Rutter said following the break. "So we will be drawing the name from an envelope."

In accordance with the county's bylaw, the mayor of the municipality with the highest weighted assessment is tasked with drawing the name, so from Dysart et al chambers, Mayor

Andrea Roberts drew a name from a sealed envelope opened and held by clerk Mallory Bishop.

Danielsen's name was drawn.

"I know this is rather extraordinary to be warden for three years running, but it's extraordinary times for us all," Danielsen said. "We've got some incredible challenges ahead of us, just starting with the pandemic and continuing to deal with that. And it's sad to say that despite the fact that there are vaccines coming, we're going to be dealing with this for months yet to come."

Danielsen had touted consistency in leadership amid the pandemic in her November speech to council.



Keep track of what's happening in Minden on Instagram

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New Cases Reported Today							
0	0	4					
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland					
Total Confirmed Cases to Date							
27	218	170	415				
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU				
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	1	26	1	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	11	188	29	0	11	19	13
Northumberland	44	125	124	0	6	1	0

The local health unit reported no new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County in a Dec. 15 update, with one case not yet resolved and one current high-risk contact. In City of Kawartha Lakes, 11 cases are not resolved, with 29 current high-risk contacts, and in Northumberland, 44 cases are not resolved, with 124 current high-risk contacts. / Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



# Budget talks begin in Minden Hills

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

Minden Hills councillors began discussing the township's 2021 budget during a Dec. 10 meeting.

Minden Hills' budgeting process typically contains three or four rounds, using a sort of "wish list" framework where department heads initially put everything they'd ideally like to see on the table, councillors then whittling the list down. So while the increase in the first draft budget was 17.5 per cent over the 2020 levy, that figure is likely to come down substantially during the course of budget talks. Last year's levy increase ended up at 5.3 per cent, equating to a 2.15 per cent property tax increase for residents.

"The management team is aware of the challenges and pressures the municipality will continue to face in 2021, so we are very much aware of the need for a fiscally responsible budget," said chief administrative officer Trisha McKibbin. "We're also very much aware of the surplus for 2020 and that this is the second year that the municipality has had a significant surplus."

Minden Hills' 2020 surplus is expected to exceed \$1 million, and its surplus for 2019 was more than \$900,000.

"Staff is very much aware that this is the

first discussion and that this amount [17.5 per cent levy increase] is not an acceptable amount," McKibbin said, "but this is the basis for our first discussion, and that we'll move forward and reach our final budget targets."

McKibbin said some priorities she hoped to see achieved with the 2021 budget included having no surplus for 2021; that only capital projects that could be realistically completed during the fiscal year be included in the budget; and to operationalize the township's new arena.

The nearly \$13-million project had initially been scheduled to be completed in late summer.

The draft budget contains an increase in the township's wages and benefits for the year of \$880,000, and part of that increase will be due to staffing requirements at the new arena. A report from McKibbin indicated that for the community services department, the draft budget contained an increase of some \$655,000, and that more than half of that increase was comprised of wages and benefits for staff that will be required to operationalize the new facility.

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# County bridges require millions in work

by CHAD INGRAM  
Editor

The county's bridges and culverts will require tens of millions of dollars in repairs and replacements over the coming decades.

Haliburton County councillors received a presentation from Harold Cleywegt, managing director with Keystone Bridge Management Corp. during their Dec. 9 meeting, the county having hired Keystone to complete an inspection of its bridges and culverts.

The inspection included 18 bridges and 24 large culverts, and showed \$10.35 million in capital needs related to these structures between 2021 and 2028, "to bring the structures up to a good state of repair," Cleywegt said.

"We're recommending four culverts be replaced, and five bridges are in need of what we call a comprehensive rehabilitation," he said.

More than half of the surface area of the bridges included in the inspection is at least 50 years old, with some parts 110 years in age.

"Typically, as bridges get older, they require more capital investment to sustain their life and to maximize the remaining life left in them," Cleywegt said.

For the period of 2021 to 2028, the firm's recommendation was that an average of \$1.3 million per year be spent on bridges and cul-

“

Haliburton County's doing OK, but it could be doing better.

— ENGINEERING  
CONSULTANT HAROLD CLEYWEGT

”

verts, with the heaviest degree of need in the next few years, between 2021 and 2023.

Nearly 13 per cent of the county's bridge and culvert inventory has been renewed in the past 20 years, with Cleywegt adding the desirable renewal rate is typically one per cent per year. "Haliburton County's doing OK, but could be doing better," he said.

Over the next 40 years, there will be a need to replace about \$27 million in structures, and in total the county is looking at approximately \$92 million in asset replacement over the next 80 to 90 years.

"This is excellent information for us to receive prior to our budgeting process," said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. "Not unexpected, but still pretty eye-opening when you start looking at the amounts."



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## MINDEN FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS HAMPER AND CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Hampers can be picked up on Monday Dec 21st between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM at the Minden Community Centre.

NEW for this year: Hamper pick up will be a **Drive-Thru** format. When you arrive at the Minden Community Centre, a volunteer will direct you to a parking space. Please have the I.D for everyone listed on your application ready.

A volunteer will bring your Christmas Hamper and toys outside and place them on a designated table beside your vehicle. Please remain in your vehicle until all products have been placed on the table. Once completed, you may get out and pack your items into your vehicle (NOTE: if you require assistance to lift, please bring someone to help you).

In order to ensure COVID GUIDELINES are being followed, volunteers will not be allowed to load items into vehicles and community members will not be allowed to enter the building. We ask that everyone respect these guidelines and wait in their vehicles in the line-up.

Please note that there will be no used/new clothing available on hamper pick up day. **A Christmas Boutique** has been made available at the Food Bank on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM until December 20th. For more information please contact the Foodbank at 705-286-6838

## WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS

Please note that any balance outstanding on your water and sewer account at December 31st will be transferred to your tax account.

If you pay your account by telephone or on-line banking, any payments received at the Township office in the new year will be up-loaded to your water/sewer account. It is your responsibility to make your payment to the appropriate account – utility or taxes.

Any payments made on your utility account after the balance is transferred to taxes, will result in a credit on your utility account until the next quarterly billing, and will only be transferred to taxes upon written request, subject to an administration fee of \$25.00.

Please ensure your on-line or telephone banking payments are made to the appropriate utility or tax account.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our office at 705-286-1260, ext. 501 or by email at water-sewer@minden hills.ca

## Seasons Greetings

From the  
**Township of Minden Hills**  
Council and Staff would like to wish everyone in Minden Hills  
a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

### MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS

**Administration Office**  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> to Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
CLOSED Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery**  
CLOSED Dec 5<sup>th</sup> for the remainder of 2020

**Landfills**  
All Sites are **CLOSED** Dec 25<sup>th</sup> & Jan 1<sup>st</sup>

**Community Services Department  
Administration Office**  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> to Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
CLOSED Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Public Works Department  
Administration Office**  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
CLOSED Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Fire Department  
Administration Office**  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> to December 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
CLOSED Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Regular hours resume Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MINDEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Check in with older family, friends, neighbours and those who are isolated in the community and make sure they have a working smoke alarm. Check their home for Christmas fire hazards and advise them of steps they can take to help "STOP" fire in their home. If you hear a neighbour's smoke alarm going off, don't ignore it – go and check. If there's a fire, or if you can't be sure, phone 911.

## SAFE WINTER DRIVING Go slow driving in snow

- Drive according to weather conditions, not the speed limit.
- During a storm, posted speed limits are usually too fast. Conditions can also be unpredictable and change rapidly. Adjust your speed accordingly and give yourself extra travel time.
- Avoid sudden moves, starts or stops. Start slowly on slick or snowy roads and brake gradually, giving yourself plenty of space. Steer gently into turns to maintain control.
- Be visible. Use your low-beam headlights when it is snowing. They are brighter than daytime running lights and will turn on your tail lights.

## 2020 TAX INFORMATION

Council passed By-law #20-63 to suspend late charges on all 2020 tax installments until the first day following December 4, 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a reminder that the 2020 property taxes were due on December 4th. Interest will be added effective January 1, 2021 to all tax amounts outstanding as of this date.

You may pay your taxes via telephone or on-line banking or pay at your financial institution. Please allow three (3) business days for payments to be received by our office.

Payments can also be made by cheque and mailed or put in our secured drop box at 7 Milne St. located on the north wall of the Administration building facing Pritchard Lane and the Municipal parking lot. It is accessed from the wheelchair entrance and is at the top of the first ramp. Absolutely NO cash is to be put in the drop box. Please make cheques payable to the Township of Minden Hills.

If you have any questions, please contact the tax department at (705) 286-1260 and press option "3".

## HOLIDAY HOURS AT WASTE SITES

All Minden Hills Waste Sites are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day so our Staff can enjoy time with their families. Happy Holidays!



# New owners want to take Century21 'to the next level'

by MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

There will soon be a new face at the helm of Century21 Granite Realty Group in Haliburton, and it's one you just might recognize.

Brandon Nimigon, and his wife Megan, will take ownership of the local brokerage in the new year, purchasing the business from Andrew and Anne Hodgson. Brandon has been an agent with the firm since 2015, and has long harboured ambitions of leading his own agency. When he was approached by Andrew earlier this year with a view to taking over, it was an opportunity he simply could not pass up.

While he himself has around five years of on-the-job experience, Brandon has been around the real estate industry for most of his life. His mother, Karen, has been an agent in the Haliburton area for more than 20 years. He remembers the days when he would attend open houses, help to put up real estate signs and mark property lines.

"I've always kind of been entrenched in the business a little bit. When I first started out my career, I was doing broadcast and digital sales. My wife and I moved around a little bit, but decided a few years ago that we wanted to move back home, back to Haliburton," Brandon said. "When we did that, I took stock of my career and decided that the real estate business was where I wanted to be."

Upon joining Century21, Brandon sat down with Andrew to discuss long-term goals and narrow down on what he wanted to do, and where his focus would be. Even at that early stage, Brandon knew he wanted to go into business for himself.



Haliburton's Century21 real estate agency will soon be under new ownership. Brandon and Megan Nimigon (left and second left) will take over the brokerage from Andrew and Anne Hodgson (right and second right). Andrew will be staying on with the agency as a selling agent. /MIKE BAKER Staff

It was that kind of attitude that set him apart, and made him the ideal choice to take over the brokerage once the Hodgsons decided it was time to pass the torch.

Having owned the firm for 11 years, purchasing from Derrell and Kim Stamp back in 2009, the Hodgsons were adamant they would only sell the business if they had an appropriate succession plan in place. While Andrew will stay on as an agent, he's happy to be handing the managerial reins over to someone he trusts.

"For us, it's just the right time [to sell]. This is a good succession plan – I get to stay on, and will keep selling, and we provide an opportunity to someone young and hungry

to take over," Andrew said. "I'm involved in a lot of different committees in Haliburton, and the one thing I hear at every table is how we want to retain our youth. Well, this is a young family here that has decided they want to raise their family, live and work here. This is what we talk about all the time, about how we want to have our younger people stay in our communities. This is how you do it."

For Anne, she said the important thing for her was ensuring the brokerage remained locally-owned.

"We wanted to make sure whoever took over loves the community just as much as we do. Ethics was a really important consideration for us as well. We know Brandon and Megan will be strong leaders going forward for us," Anne said.

To say that Brandon and Megan are excited about this new adventure would be an understatement. They don't plan on changing much, if anything at all, in the short-term, with Brandon saying he just wants to maintain the fine work that has gone on at Century21 since he joined the firm five years ago.

Looking ahead though, he feels it's imperative the agency keeps up with the times

and adapts as new technologies become available.

"Our business really has changed dramatically over the past ten years. As more tech comes into our line of work, we need to adapt so that we stay relevant to our clients. My main goal moving forward will be to stay relevant, and keep the awesome team we have here in place," Brandon said. "We all get along so well. I want to keep the same working environment going, continue to grow the business and really just take things to the next level."

That mentality falls right in line with the way things are going in Haliburton County right now. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, the local real estate market has taken off, with houses in the area disappearing off the market within days of being listed. It's quickly become the norm for bidding wars amongst multiple potential buyers to drive the final price on a home well beyond asking.

While Brandon admits 2020 has been an unprecedented year for the local real estate market, it's something he says he saw coming.

"Everyone has said how crazy, how different this year has been for real estate in Haliburton County, but we've been pretty crazy up here for the past five years," Brandon said. "Looking back to 2017, we were in a very similar market, where there were multiple offers on properties, limited inventory and prices going through the roof. This year I think just kicked things into that next level. With a lot of people not working out of their office anymore, they're taking advantage by selling their small downtown apartment and buying a beautiful cottage."

Brandon says he sees the trend continuing, even after the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

"If a [downtown Toronto] business can save \$100,000 [a month] on rent, and have their staff work from home, most likely they're going to do it. So, I can see this continuing for a little while at least," Brandon added. "While it does continue, I believe it's going to lead to a really strong market up here."

For more information, or to view real estate listings in the area, visit [graniterealty-group.c21.ca](http://graniterealty-group.c21.ca).

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[info@katiesrun.ca](mailto:info@katiesrun.ca)



## Minden Re/Max brings the goods

Re/Max Professionals North sales representatives of Minden Katie Rowe, left, Terry Carr, Tammy Wilson (administration), Lynda Litwin, Lisa Mercer and Kelly Mercer show what they and the community helped to collect this year for the Re/Max Minden Food Drive. The Minden office hopes to repeat the effort and start earlier so the collection can be greater next year. /DARREN LUM Staff



# County contributes to new housing project

by **CHAD INGRAM**  
Editor

The County of Haliburton will contribute \$360,000 to the construction of a \$6.8-million affordable housing complex to be constructed along the Gull River at the intersection of Highway 35 and County Road 21 in Minden.

County councillors got a preview of the project from Hope Lee, CEO of the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation, during a Dec. 9 meeting.

As previously reported, the development would bring 30 units in the form of 15 duplexes to the property in a partnership between the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation and seasonal resident Bill Switzer of real estate firm F.W. Gwillim.

In September, Minden Hills council passed a resolution instructing staff to draw up documentation for the donation of a township-owned road allowance on the property, as well as to prepare documentation for the necessary official plan and zoning amendments, and to waive application fees and charges, securities required as part of site plan, as well as building permit fees.

"While this project will receive financial support from both the housing corporation and Mr. Switzer, it's important to highlight the significant contribution of Mr. Switzer towards this project," Lee told councillors. "Without his support, including that land, this project would not be possible or considered. He's a long-time seasonal resident of the county. Mr. Switzer's owned the parcel

of land for many years. So, this project is not only his dream for this parcel of land, but his way to give back to this community."

Once developed, ownership of the land and development will transfer to the housing corporation.

Of county council, the request was for \$360,000 to assist with capital costs, which Lee noted is consistent with the rate of \$12,000 per unit the county has contributed in construction costs for other housing corporation projects. Council approved the funding.



The County of Haliburton will contribute \$360,000 in capital funding for a \$6.8-million affordable housing development along the Gull River in Minden. /Screenshot of rendering supplied by the Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton Housing Corporation



## Taking a step to Christmas

Archie Stouffer Elementary School students Haileigh Gallagher, left, and Jace Flack turn from a pylon while playing the game Steal the Candy Cane during Grade 1/2 gym class on Thursday, Dec. 10. /DARREN LUM Staff

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# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

# The Times

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## 'Plandemic'

IT'S FINALLY HERE – the vaccine designed by a group of global elites to transform us all into brainwashed drones toiling in perpetuity for our corrupt overlords.

As outrageous as that may sound, many readers are likely very aware that there is a widespread conspiracy theory culture surrounding COVID-19 and vaccines, and that there are a disturbing number of people worldwide who believe some variation of this narrative.

In some variations, the vaccine is the cover by which Bill Gates will implant us all with microchips ... for some reason. I guess falling to being only the third richest person in the world has impacted Bill pretty badly, so now, in his rage, he has no choice but to turn us into a race of zombies.

All variations of the conspiracy contain the same central element: that the coronavirus pandemic – or “plandemic,” as hoaxers like to call it – is a great ploy planned by an illuminati-like organization in order to control the world's population. Perpetuators of the myth believe that the virus doesn't exist, and that the vaccines medical scientists around the globe have worked so hard at creating for the past nine months are the vehicle by which the great culling will take place.

Regrettably, I'm not making any of this up.

And in the chat rooms and

online forums of the internet, conspiracy theorists are able to gravitate to one another, forming echo chambers that only reinforce the notion these ridiculous theories are true, and accelerate their spread to other like-minded individuals.

Not only is this kind of thinking demonstrative of an incredibly loose grip on reality, it is an all-out rejection of science and it is dangerous. And the more people who believe it, the more dangerous it becomes.

It stands to reason that many of these anti-vaxxers are never going to get the coronavirus shot. That may ultimately mean depriving themselves of experiences such

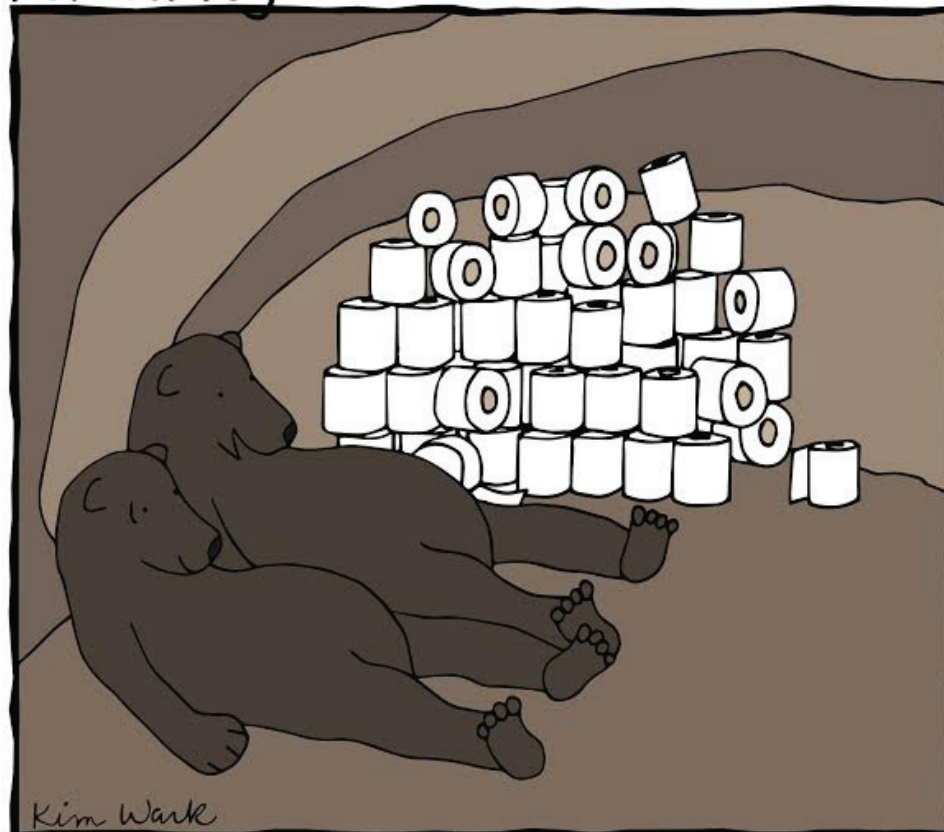
as attending concerts, sporting events or other gatherings that will likely require proof of vaccination once they resume, but many of these folks would apparently sooner die than take a vaccine.

While it's unclear precisely what it will take to achieve herd immunity when it comes to COVID-19, epidemiologists typically point to a requirement that at minimum, very minimum, 70 per cent of the world's population would have to be immune. So, when it comes time – and it will be many, many more months still for most of us – to roll up your sleeve for the COVID-19 vaccine, please do your part. There'll never be a vaccine for conspiracy theories.



**CHAD INGRAM**  
Reporter

## Kwarky



“Ready for the lockdown!”

## Climate change and the snowshoe hare

I'VE NOTICED a stereotype lately that suggests only young people believe in climate change. In my experience, that is pure BS.

I am on the high side of middle-aged. That means I spend a lot of time speaking to older people so I can still be referred to as “the young feller.” As a result, I have discovered the older you are, the more you accept climate change.

Every older person has stories about how kids these days don't know what a real winter is. People in the older demographic remember snowbanks so high you couldn't see your house from the road and they look at what passes for winter these days as evidence something has changed.

Talk to the younger generation about climate change, however, and you will hear some real babble-talk. My four-year-old grandson, for instance, has no clue. He can only remember the past two winters, and they seem pretty much the same to him.

I love the kid but unless his generation gets a little more educated, I'm not holding out much hope for the future.

Regardless, climate change will affect us in many ways and none of them good. But, relatively speaking, we are the lucky ones. Imagine, if you were a varying (aka snowshoe) hare.

First, let's acknowledge that these animals are on every land- and aerial-based predator's list of healthy snacks.

But the one thing they had going for them was that their coat turned white in the winter. This superpower provides camouflage and a better than even chance of escaping from the clutches of anything that wants to eat them, including the human hunter.

But, as climate change reduces snow cover and shortens winter, these animals are going to have an issue. Eventually, if the trend continues, they will stick out like sore thumbs more often at the beginning and end of each winter.

This is not going to bode well for them as a species.

There's nothing easier to spot on a snowless January landscape than a pure white snowshoe hare.

Eventually, if climate change persists hunters are going to have to create the same sort of conservation effort as the nesting box projects that saved the wood duck. I have given this a lot of thought and believe that the best way to do it would be a two-fold approach. The first part is to give them a place to hide in plain sight. The second part would be to reduce their predators so they could thrive.

I envision a simple project where conservationist hunters would go into snowshoe hare habitat and spraypaint every hare-sized rock and stump white. That way, a white hare could just sit still among these white inanimate objects and giggle as they watch predators break their teeth, claws and beaks biting down on hard white objects they mistook for a hare. This would also provide for plenty of hilarious social media videos too.

Eventually, predators would turn their efforts to something less fraught with risk – or perhaps go vegan.

This simple effort would definitely help varying hares at least until they could evolve coats that are more seasonally appropriate.

If we don't do something about this issue, they will eventually retreat farther north to where the snow sticks around a little longer. This would be a shame.

No hunter I know wants a receding hare-line.



**STEVE GALEA**  
Beyond 35



# IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

## The trees of hope

IT'S TIME TO hike out to the shed and fetch the artificial Christmas tree.

It is not a huge task. Wrestle the box off the top shelf, pull out the three tree sections, snap them together, straighten the stand legs and stick the tree in a corner. The lights are built into the tree so you just plug the cord into a wall socket, add some Christmassy decorations, toss on some tinsel, and voila! All done.

But I've been thinking that maybe that's not such a good idea this year. Memories of Christmases past keep whispering in my head.

They remind me of joyous Christmas moments from the past. Those years when we went into the bush with Dad to select and cut the world's best Christmas tree. The fun of dragging it home, setting it up, then placing every coloured ball, and each piece of tinsel, carefully and affectionately.



**JIM POLING SR.**

*From Shaman's Rock*

And, in later years, following many of the same family traditions with our own children.

More people are leaving their artificial trees in storage this year. They are opting for real trees, in many cases because they are seeking some normalcy in a year that has been completely abnormal.

The Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association says it expects this year to set a record for sales. Many Canadian Christmas tree lots have sold out and exports of real trees to the U.S. are soaring.

I decided some years back not to cut any more live Christmas trees because of environmental concerns. I'm wondering now if those concerns are well-founded.

Like most artificial trees, ours is mainly plastic. The needles are plastic, as are many of the connecting parts. The electrical wires are plastic as is the star that tops the tree.

I've concluded that by deciding on an artificial tree I traded one set of environmental concerns for another.

There is too much plastic in our world. It is everywhere, including places it should not be – roadside ditches, city streets, lake shorelines and oceans. Plastics take centuries to deteriorate. Some never do.

Real Christmas trees disappear soon after Christmas. Many municipalities have Christmas tree recycling programs in which the trees are ground into mulch that is added to gardens to lock in moisture, suppress weeds and feed the soil.

Live trees suck up carbon dioxide belched into the atmosphere by human use of fossil fuels. They are pollution filters that researchers say can remove up to 13 tons of airborne pollutants per acre per year.

And, they release oxygen year round – especially the young hungry and fast-growing evergreens – because they do not shed their needles, which are food-producing factories.

Growing Christmas trees for sale is also a boost for the agriculture industry. Statistics Canada reports that the value of farm cash receipts for Christmas trees in 2017 was \$91.2 million.

Also, when you get a tree from a Christmas tree lot you expect that tree is going to be replaced. Tree farmers must replace trees that are cut and sold if they expect to stay in business in future years.

A tree farm sapling takes eight to 10 years before it is ready for market, so it's a business in which the operator must think ahead.

Perhaps all of us should adopt such forward thinking. What if those of us who follow the Christmas tree tradition planted one replacement tree every year as a sign of renewed life?

All trees, but evergreens in particular, are a sign of continuing life. Ancient civilizations hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows during bleak winter times. The ancient Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes in late December as a sign of life.

Some Christmas tree traditions and customs have been borrowed from different people from different lands. The first Christmas tree in Canada is believed have been introduced by Baron Friederick von Riedesel, a German immigrant to Quebec in the late 1700s.

Originally the Christmas tree was the traditional centrepiece of the season celebrating the birth of Christ. It has expanded to become a symbol of freshness, renewed life, hope and faith.

That's a much-needed, much-appreciated gift in 2020, a year of loss and sadness.

### letters to the editor

## Lack of masks disconcerting

To the Editor,

I put a Facebook post out detailing the number of places I have seen without proper use of masks. It's astonishing and incredibly dangerous. Here's what I've found: A Minden grocery store employee not wearing a mask roaming the aisles. Another Minden grocery store letting customers in without a face mask. An employee on cash not wearing a mask covering their nose and mouth. At a hardware store, customers allowed with no mask, cashier with no mask at all. At another Minden business, employees with no masks in a public pickup area. At a gas station, an indoor employee in that tiny space wearing no mask. We've gone insane here. And if one

person were to come from out of town infected and buy groceries, get something at the hardware store and gas up? We'd have a super spreader. And if this happened, our little hospital would do what? What would we do when a poor county is hit by a super-spreader? I'm looking at no longer shopping in Minden and moving my purchases to other towns with better respect for our health. That's sad, because there are some businesses that are really trying. But I have to deal with minimizing our health risks. Obviously, many local businesses just don't care. I do.

**Jim Love**  
Miners' Bay

## Shoreline bylaw too restrictive

To the Editor,

Cutting to the bottom line: There is *no* state of emergency that justifies sweeping away Canadians' basic freedoms. No war, no natural, no environmental or no manmade disaster here in Haliburton.

No emergency can override the meaning and spirit of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and any enshrined riparian property usage rights.

Our government is based on the consent of the governed. We decide. We aren't property of the state. We aren't products shaped by the state. We weren't born to be to be in "greenbelt shoreline lockdowns" and pseudo-science test subjects in some grand utopian vision dreamt up by CHA and facilitated by our local part time politicians – those whom we can replace in two years if we feel betrayed.

We are in a tunnel. We are carrying the light. Around us are sheep and doomsayers and hostile actors. They have redefined freedom in Orwellian terms to mean obedience. They now see privation and shoreline lockdowns as consecrations to a new cause: allegiance to a brand new manufactured set of enviro-standards that have suddenly washed ashore.

Instead, we have to rise up. We have to live life, move forward and above all keep our cottage dreams and lifestyles alive by raising our collective voices against this new wave of oppressive forces that will deny your long held and valued rights and freedoms as cottagers and elsewhere.

**David Hopkins Howe**  
Minden Hills

## DVD of the Month - December



In a fantasy realm that evolved into a contemporary suburbia, teen elf brothers Barley and Ian Lightfoot (voiced by Chris Pratt, and Tom Holland) are given a stunning gift from their mother (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) when Ian turns 16: an heirloom spell that can return their late father to life for one day. The novice conjurers work the magic ... but it's only "half" successful. Desperate to fix their mystic blunder and salvage the magical day, the brothers set off on a road trip adventure filled with cryptic maps, impossible obstacles and unimaginable discoveries. But when dear Mom finds out her sons are missing, she teams up with the legendary winged-lion-scorpion former warrior – The Manticore – to bring her beloved boys back home.

The newest epic from animated film masters Disney/Pixar, this funny and poignant modern quest tale will have you cheering for more. Check it

out from Haliburton County Public Library today.



*Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?*

Send a letter to the editor to  
[chad@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:chad@haliburtonpress.com)



## Comfort Zone Part 4 - Rest

**P**ERHAPS A good way to start this column is with the line “there’s no rest for the \_\_\_\_\_”. Choose the word that you feel best fills in that blank. I would pick the word “overstimulated”. Much of our society is overstimulated, overworked and overwhelmed. That gets in the way of a good night’s sleep. I’ve had my fair share of watching the hours tick by on the clock. Sometimes I have a conversation in my head that goes something like this:

“You have reviewed four different outcomes of this situation, and have worked out four different solutions. You have reviewed each solution four times from four different perspectives. It’s time to let it go and sleep.”

I’m sure I’m not alone in that type of thinking or the tossing/turning that goes along with it. My other big sleep challenge is FOMO. FOMO stands for the fear of missing out. Sometimes I will scroll through Facebook, jump over to Instagram, move to the weather app and then to the CBC news app. Wash, rinse, repeat. Something could have changed in the five minutes since I last checked Facebook, Instagram, the weather and the news. Thank goodness I didn’t think about writing this article before I went to bed last night. I never would have gotten to sleep. Ouch. Here’s the irony - if a comfort zone is a place or situation where one feels safe or at ease and without stress then this behaviour cannot be a comfort zone. Yet it’s where I have been comfortable in the past.

Pushing the limits of our comfort zones starts with self-awareness. That means an honest look at ourselves to see what is and

isn’t working. Rest is the most important of the health tripod. Movement and nutrition are the other two legs that support good health. I don’t need to tell you that we don’t move as much when we’re tired. We also tend to grab calorie rich/nutrient empty foods to overcome the energy deficit that poor night’s rest leaves us with. Being well rested means we have a better chance at healthy movement and nutrition habits.

I totally believe that we, as adults, need seven to eight hours of rest a night. Many

people have told me that they don’t need that much. My answer to that is prove me wrong by shutting down for eight hours a night for one week. I know that for some it’s hard to sleep for eight hours straight. I’m so grateful when it happens that I do the happy dance when my coffee is brewing. Try shutting down for eight hours. Turn off all devices, the lights, and relax until you fall asleep. Try

it for one week. If you like, keep a record of how long you slept for and how you felt the next day. If you’re really keen you can document if you ate well and moved around with that extra energy.

As a kid I had a strict bedtime. More than ever I’ve come to appreciate it. I’ve also come to appreciate the afternoon nap. Oh to be young again. Resting more might help with that.

Something to think about.

*Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at [laurie@thepointforfitness.com](mailto:laurie@thepointforfitness.com).*



**LAURIE SWEIG**  
*Practical Fitness*

## Shindig total for Fuel for Warmth grows again

by **DARREN LUM**  
*Times Staff*

Since the last update about the amount of money raised from the Highlands Virtual Shindig 2020 there has been close to \$2,000 more donated to the growing tally for Fuel for Warmth, which will now be the recipient of a little more than \$59,000 this year.

The newest total was confirmed by the Shindig’s treasurer, Wendy Ogilvie, who said she has been amazed at the support, particularly during these challenging times.

More is likely to be added, as donations will continue to be accepted through Fuel for Warmth ([www.fuelforwarmth.com/shindig](http://www.fuelforwarmth.com/shindig)), an organization that assists residents in need with securing resources for heating their homes.

Mike Jaycock, aka Dame Beatrice, wrote in an email that he was overwhelmed by the responses, not only to the virtual performance, “but to the sense of need that people have taken to their hearts. I think the growing total is a recognition by people that there is, and will be, a real need to help people this winter.”

He continues, “The pandemic has created tremendous hardships for many people and, I think, we are all well aware that there will be a greater need this winter.”

The kindness and support that people, businesses and local organizations have demonstrated for this virtual event, and for many other causes in the Highlands, is proof of the goodness that exists in our communities.

Donations have come from both here in the Highlands and from around the province ... some from far beyond our borders. It’s impossible not to feel humbled at this response.”

Jaycock, who has spent a life time in broadcast media, said he’s never been part of such an effort before and will never forget this experience.

“The Shindig production team took on something the likes of which have not been attempted in this region. People in the broadcast industry have told me that they were very impressed at our accomplishment and we are delighted that it has had such a large impact. The wonderful talent and our special guests (Rick Mercer, Red Green, Ron James, MP Jamie Schmale) enabled us to put on a very entertaining show and do good at the same time,” he wrote. A high definition, edited version of the 7th annual Shindig show is available to view on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cVGULsVyoE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cVGULsVyoE)) or at the Fuel for Warmth ([www.fuelforwarmth.com/shindig](http://www.fuelforwarmth.com/shindig)) website thanks to Tammy Rae.

“The months of planning and development by the team were well rewarded on hearing of both the result and that people really enjoyed the show. In my life, this will go down as one of the most unique undertakings I ever been a part of. I have a good feeling in my heart,” Jaycock wrote.



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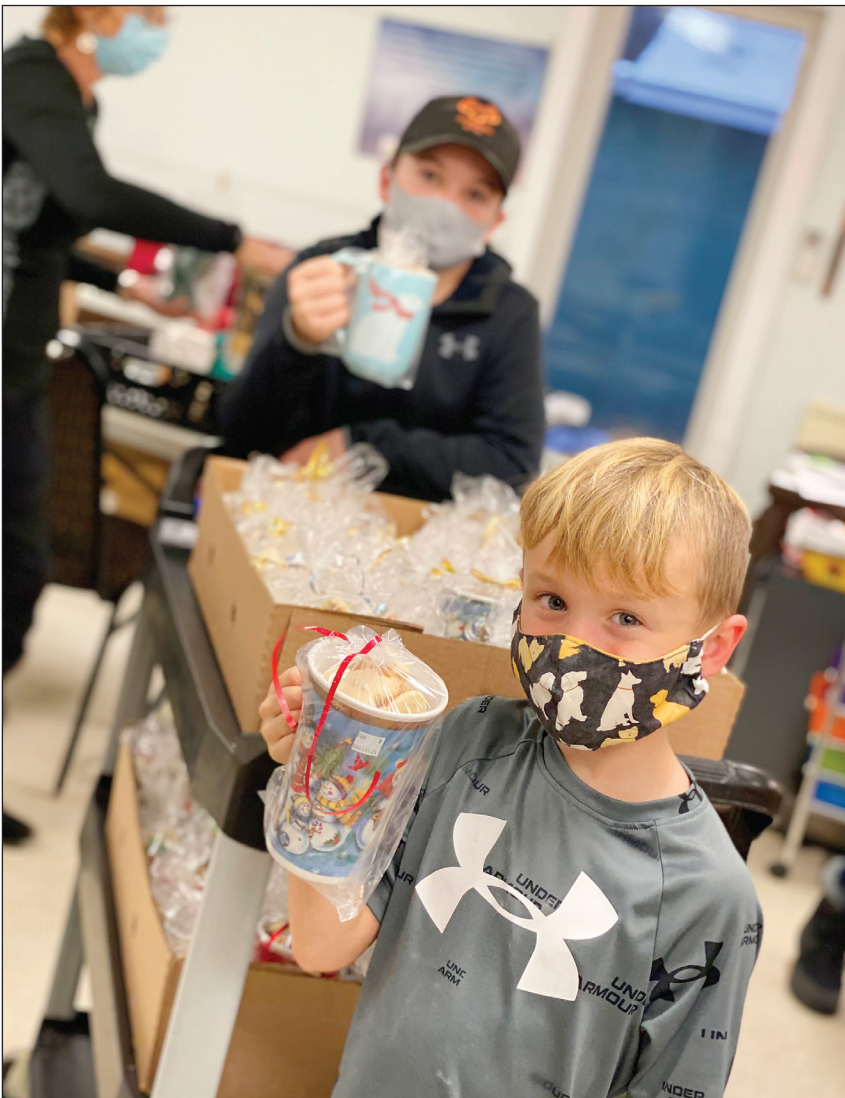
# Volunteers not required for hamper program this year

The success of the Christmas hamper program would not be possible without our wonderful community volunteers and the generosity of our residents, community groups and businesses. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we will not be able to allow our many volunteers to help sort as we have in the past. Due to health and safety guidelines and restrictions only a selected few volunteers will be allowed to help. These selected volunteers have been contacted

so we ask that if you were not contacted please do not show up at the community centre as we will unfortunately not be able to allow people in. The health and safety of everyone is our first priority. Thank you in advance. We hope to be able to allow you all back in the upcoming years.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

*Submitted by the Minden Community Food Centre*



## In memory of Popa

Maddex Reynolds, seven, front, was with his brother Beckam, 13, both of Haliburton, to prepare more than 200 mugs to be filled with some of the 1,400 homemade Christmas cookies on Dec. 3 at the Minden Community Food Centre. Mother Brandi Hewson said, "It's so important for them to learn about giving back, learn to be so grateful for the life they've been given and it beyond warms our hearts to help locally." Last year, the brothers lost their "Popa," who raised their mother in Minden and was a regular volunteer with the food bank. To honour the memory of their Minden grandfather, the boys volunteered to help with this year's Christmas drive. /Submitted by Brandi Hewson



There were 1,400 cookies made for the 200 mugs, which will be given to people in the community during this festive season from the Minden Community Food Centre. /Submitted by Joanne Barnes.

## This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

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The winner of the first Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest were the residents at 3705 Deep Bay – Robbie Stevenson and Lianna Hardy. They won by two votes ahead of the runner-up winners. /Photo from Minden Hills Cultural Centre blog

# Lighting up the town: Deep Bay Road home takes the prize

by SUE TIFFIN  
Times Staff

From Peterson Road to Hwy 35, from Deep Bay Road to Lochlin Road, the homes of Minden were alive with bright lights, festive inflatables and even some holiday music as the Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest celebrated 34 participants across the township.

Voting for the self-guided, drive-by light gallery took place from Dec. 5 to 13, and the winners – Robbie Stevenson and Lianna Hardy who live at 3705 Deep Bay Road – won the contest and a \$150 gift certificate to a local business of their choice by two votes on Dec. 14.

“It was awesome, we went and looked at all the lights,” said the winner statement. “It was great to be part of a contest that everybody gets to see. You go around and see everybody’s hard work and it makes your day a little happier.”

Stevenson and Hardy said they decorate every year, but “went a bit further this year, went out to get a few more lights and put a string of lights above the driveway.”

The runner-up, 165 Bobcaygeon Road, has been decorated by Scott and Carolyn Martin for four years now, with the homeowners suggesting those who like their display donate to the food bank. The second runner-up was 33 Invergordon Avenue, the home of the Minden Minions, decorated by Clark Chamberlin.

“We’re all spending a bit more time at home this year and the Holiday Lights Trail was a way to kickstart the holidays and spread home cheer from home,” said Shannon Quigley, curatorial programming assistant at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, through which the contest was organized. “It turned into a great way to celebrate Minden’s community spirit at a time when getting together is difficult.”

Quigley said having the submissions and photos come in

“  
We’re all spending a bit more time at home this year and the Holiday Lights Trails was a great way to kickstart the holidays and spread cheer from home.  
”

— SHANNON QUIGLEY

see CONTEST page 12



# ROCKIN' AROUND YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

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The runners-up of the Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest were Scott and Carolyn Martin at 165 Bobcaygeon Road, across from the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and next to Archie Stouffer Elementary School.



A house – and vehicle – at 33 Invergordon Avenue that brought the Minions to Minden thanks to Clark Chamberlin was the second runner-up in the Minden Hills Holiday Lights Contest. /Photos from Minden Hills Cultural Centre blog

# Contest draws more than 30 entries

from page 11

by e-mail felt like opening an advent calendar. “It was wonderful to have so many submissions from across the township of Minden Hills,” she said. “From Lutterworth to Little Boshkung Lake, there are submissions from all over. I think this helped make it feel like a real community event – hopefully, no matter where you are in the township, there’s a house on the trail that you recognize.” She said the contest seemed to have sparked people’s imaginations and generated conversation, with many of the participants hearing about the event from a friend or neighbour.

“I think people signed up as a way to have some fun and take part in a community event that allowed them to connect with their friends and neighbours from a safe distance,” said Quigley. “Some people said they took part to offset some of the negative things that have happened this year, others just love decorating. A lot of people said they were happy to see the Trail being organized because so many other things were cancelled.” After driving throughout the township, taking in the lights of each participant listed on the Trail Map published online, those who took in the tour were asked to vote for one winner, with the contest ending Dec. 13 and winner announced Dec. 14.

The map will be available online until Dec. 31. Quigley said she isn’t sure how many people have driven around to look at the lights, but the response to the online album on Facebook was bigger than expected, with thousands of views. More than 500 people voted in the contest and the landing page of the blog was viewed more than 2,500 times. “People have already said they would take part again, and one Facebook commentator called it a new family tradition,” said Quigley. For more information, visit <http://www.mhcc.blog/lights>, or the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Facebook.

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McLean Rowden catches the ball while Wyatt Raposo tries to beat the throw with a slide into first base.



Owen Whitteker runs to home plate, following a play when his teammate struck the ball to the outfield.



Wyatt Raposo bowls the ball to an opposing player.



**Wildcats get their kicks in**  
Archie Stouffer Elementary School student Jayde Rowden follows through with a kick while at bat for a “dodgeball, soccer, baseball” game in gym class for Grade 7/8 class on Thursday, Dec. 10 in Minden. All gym classes are being held outdoors because of COVID-19 protocols. / DARREN LUM Staffbat



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# Privacy a concern for local health unit when reporting COVID-19 cases

by **SUE TIFFIN**  
Times Staff

With each update of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the area from the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit, comments from the public regarding their questions and concerns – namely, why isn't more information given about an individual's location or their whereabouts leading up to their positive test – follow.

Throughout the year, the *Times*, has published articles about these concerns, with responses from the health unit explaining their decisions and process – including what contact tracing looks like. Here, the local Medical Officer of Health for the HKPRD health unit weighs in on those topics as Ontario experiences the second wave of the pandemic.

Further information regarding confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County, as well as information about best practices including COVID-19 prevention measures during the pandemic can be found at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

## Information reported protects individual's privacy

Dr. Lynn Noseworthy, local Medical Officer of Health for the HKPRD health unit, said the health unit has received both positive and negative feedback about the way they currently report local COVID-19 data in our region. To date, if someone in Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, or Northumberland County tests positive for COVID-19, they are listed as a number within their county, rather than a more specific location highlighting the area or municipality in which they live. Numbers are then broken down by gender, age and outbreak setting.

"Our decision to only list local COVID-19 cases by county, not the specific town or township in which a person lives, is largely due to the relatively small populations of these places," said Noseworthy. "It could be very easy to identify someone who tests positive for COVID-19. We feel our current approach to reporting local COVID-19 cases strikes a balance between privacy and people's right to know."

Noseworthy said COVID-19 prevention measures are what will keep people safe.

"The fact is that COVID-19 is circulating everywhere in our community, so a person could potentially be exposed to the virus anyplace and in any space," she said. "Therefore, continuing with COVID-19 prevention measures is critical to reduce the risk of the virus. No matter where we are in Haliburton County or elsewhere, we need to: stay home if ill, wear a mask when inside public places, practise physical distancing by remaining two metres (six feet) apart from others, wash hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water and avoid non-essential travel, especially to high-risk areas."

"This," said Noseworthy, "is the most important information to use to protect yourself and others."

## Health unit aims to protect personal health information while informing community of potential health risks

Noseworthy said the public health unit is aware that "areas with larger populations or more cases in those highly populated areas may include a break down of cases by municipality in their reporting."

"Each Ontario health unit, and its respective Medical Officer of Health (MOH), follow provincial protocols and directives around the pandemic response," she said. "But the nature of Ontario's public health system also allows for local health units and MOHs to use their own discretion and judgment on public health matters – COVID-19 included – in their own community. We are seeing that in the way COVID-19 restrictions are being tailored to individual areas, not mandated across Ontario. This is a strength of our public health system, in my opinion, to meet the individual and unique needs of the area being served. An approach used in a larger urban centre like Toronto, Ottawa or Hamilton may not be as good a fit in a more rural and remote area like our health unit region, and vice versa."

"As a medical doctor, it weighs heavily on me how public health agencies like ours can balance privacy with the public's right to know during COVID-19," she said. "Privacy does enter the equation, as the health unit has the legal obli-

tion to protect the personal health information of our patients and clients. We also are tasked with informing area residents about potential health risks in their community. We walk a fine line in doing both as we serve the public during the pandemic, and that is why we are taking the approach we are to reporting local COVID-19 data."

## Contact tracing 'methodical, comprehensive and thorough'

While Noseworthy said the health unit is trying to balance privacy rights and the public's right to know, she said, "[w]e also want to assure local residents that the health unit takes their concerns seriously about protecting against the spread of COVID-19."

The health unit will contact anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, directing that person to self-isolate, not go out, monitor symptoms and take further precautions to limit the spread of the virus. Details are obtained about every place that individual visited or person they were in contact with during their infectious period, with every one of those identified individuals contacted and told to self-isolate and watch for symptoms, with arrangements made for testing if symptoms become apparent.

"This case and contact management is very methodical, comprehensive and thorough ... and a critical part to controlling the spread of COVID-19 in our communities," said Noseworthy.

"It's been our health unit's experience that people who test positive for COVID-19 are very open and honest about their interactions with others and do their best to provide the needed information to track down potential contacts."

## Reporting workplace outbreaks

While workplace outbreaks are reported by the media if the information can be verified, or by workplaces themselves, the health unit does not immediately report this information if it determines there is no risk to the public.

"The health unit will not routinely share the location of workplace outbreaks, but is including the number of local workplace outbreaks in our daily COVID-19 case reporting," said Noseworthy. "Having said that, if there is a workplace outbreak in which there is a risk to the public, and we are unable to determine all the close contacts, we would notify the public. That is what happened in one previous incident when there was a workplace outbreak [in the region] with a potential risk to the public."

"In another previous situation [in the region], we also released the name of a large workplace with COVID-19 cases," said Noseworthy. "This was done in consultation with the workplace, which was issuing its own public statement. In these types of scenarios, the health unit may also share information about a workplace if the workplace requests public notification – even if there is no risk to the public."

Contact tracing is essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19, said Noseworthy, and said restaurants and eateries are required to keep contact information for customers who dine in. Under the province's COVID-19 framework, in the higher colour categories, including yellow, which the HKPRD health unit region is currently under, additional businesses like gyms and fitness centres must also keep contact information for customers and patrons.

"The idea is that this information could be provided to public health if there is a positive COVID-19 test and people

need to be traced/contacted," said Noseworthy.

Noseworthy said the information about workplace outbreaks differs from the information the public is able to access in the case of restaurant, personal services and recreational water facilities health inspections, which are mandated to share their inspection reports and because "the reporting of health inspections at restaurants does not involve personal health information, but information about whether or not the restaurant complies with regulatory requirements."

## Reporting of confirmed cases in schools and long-term care homes

"Just as we do for area workplaces and businesses, the health unit's focus is working and supporting efforts to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19 in all public settings," said Noseworthy. "In the case of schools and long-term care homes, we work closely with our partners in these sectors to keep learning environments and care settings safe for everyone."

School outbreaks are reported online by the province at [www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres](http://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres) and not by the health unit, which said to avoid duplication, they instead include that information in the cumulative total that is posted on their website.

"When it comes to schools, there are protocols in place with educators to inform school communities about potential COVID-19 cases," said Noseworthy. "Similar measures are also in place for the health unit to support long-term care homes in the management, control and response to COVID-19 outbreaks."

"When it comes to long-term care homes and hospitals experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks in our region, this information is included in our daily COVID-19 data reporting," said Noseworthy. Information on COVID-19 cases for residents and staff living or working in Ontario's long-term care homes can also be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/data/long-term-care-homes>.

## Results return to health unit of primary residence

When a person tests positive for COVID-19 in Haliburton County, their test results return to the public health unit of their primary residence – that means someone testing positive in Haliburton County who primarily lives in Toronto will have their result returned there, while someone from Haliburton County testing positive in Toronto will have their result returned here.

"Currently, people can get tested for COVID-19 anywhere in Ontario – regardless of where they live in the province," said Noseworthy. "If a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result comes back, the findings are reported to health authorities in the region where the individual lives."

In this case, the appropriate health unit/health department will then do follow-up with the person who tested positive, said Noseworthy, and includes the same direction as anyone else who tests positive to self-isolate, not go out, and contact trace based on details of where the individual visited or people they might have been in contact with.

"The bottom line is that regardless of where someone lives or is tested for COVID-19 in Ontario, the provincial case and contact management system will follow up with the person to ensure they self-isolate and reduce the spread of the virus to others," said Noseworthy.



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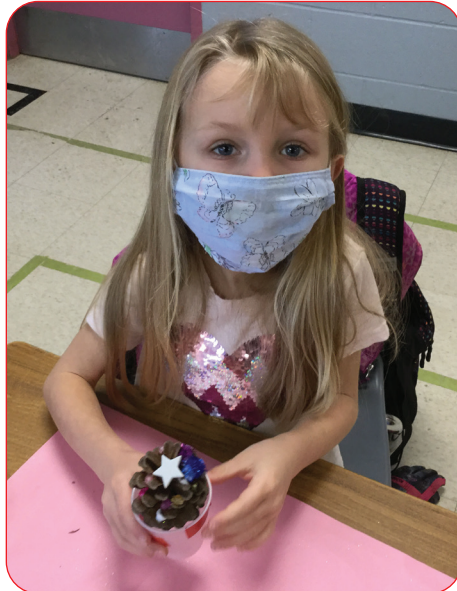
Christmas Eve 11am-3pm	Dec 27th 9am - 9pm	Dec 30th 11am - 9pm
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# Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Students from Mrs. Tokar and Ms. Card's Kindergarten class at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden have had a busy week preparing for the festive season. The kids participated in several different Christmas-themed activities, including writing letters to Santa Claus, decorating Christmas tree pine cones, and painting salt dough ornaments. /Photos Submitted.



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5	2			1				
1					9	3		6
			6					
3			8					
		2	9		7	8		
4	8					5		
					5		7	
			3				2	9
	1							5

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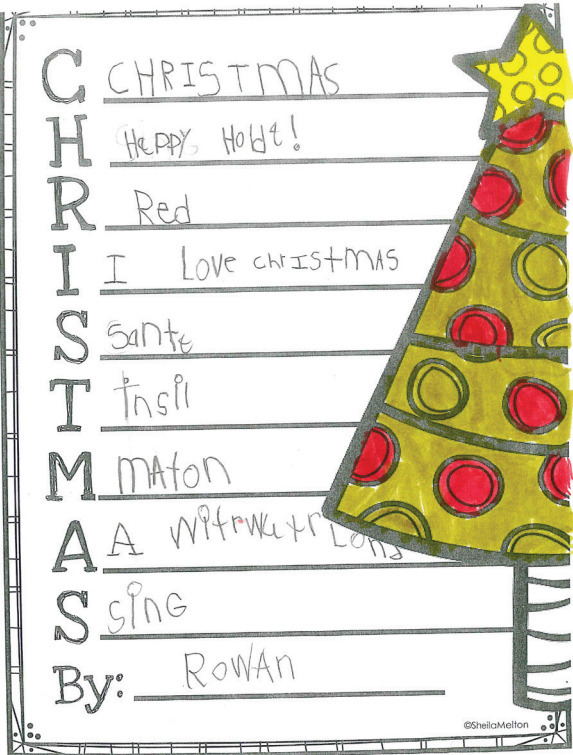
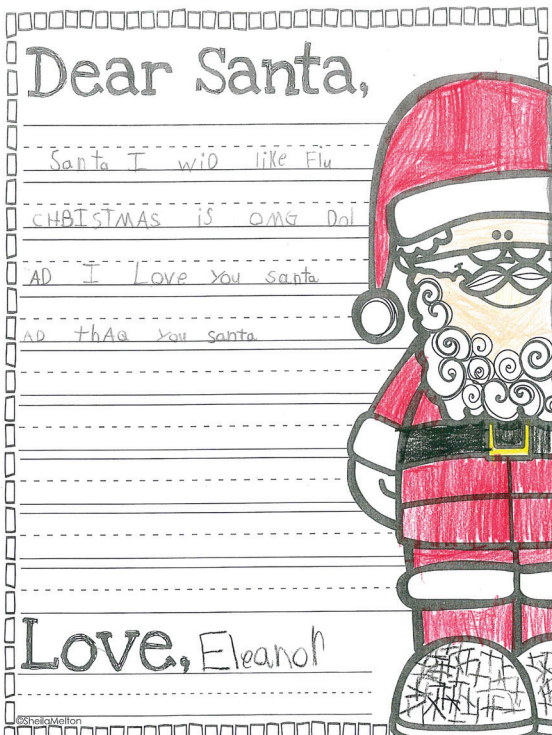
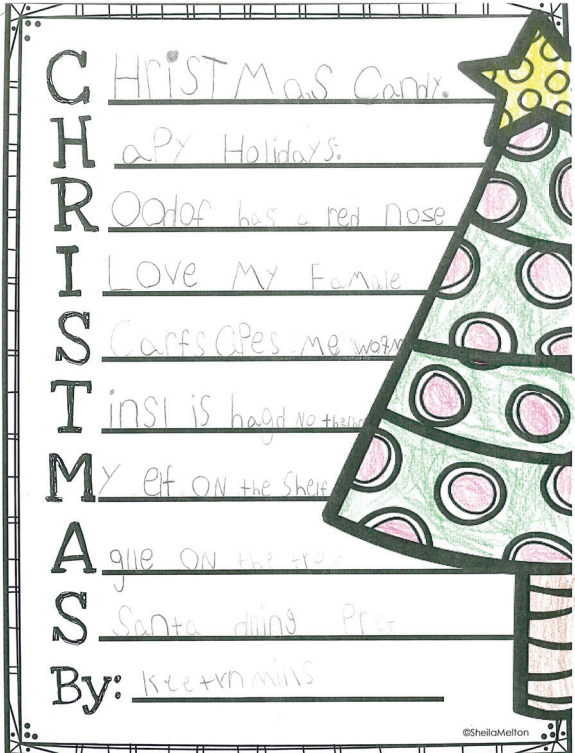
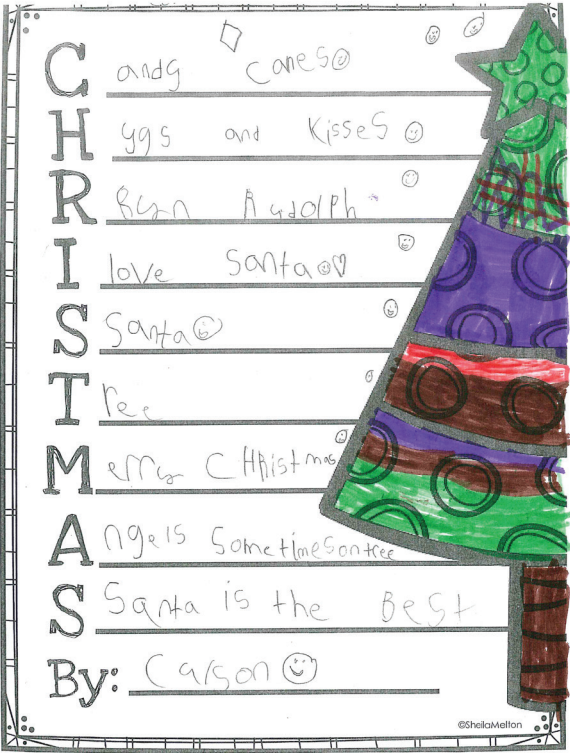
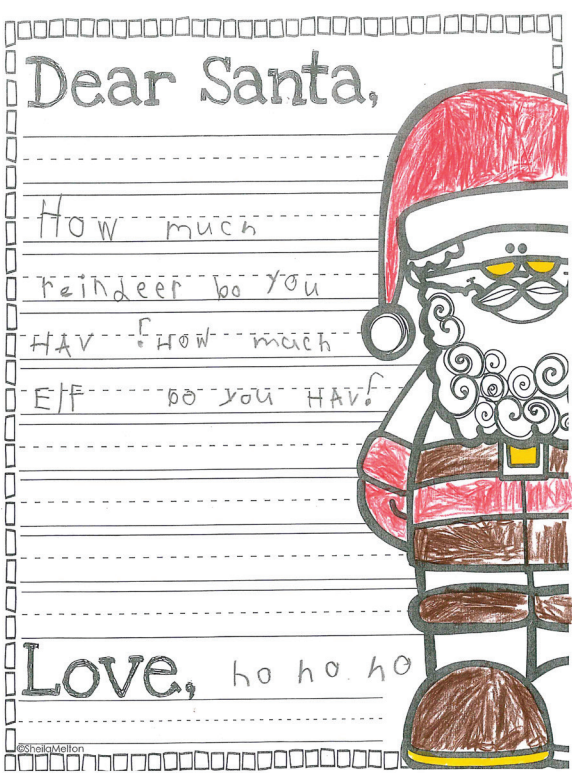
Answers on page 16





Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Mrs. Harrison's Grade 2 Christmas Writing



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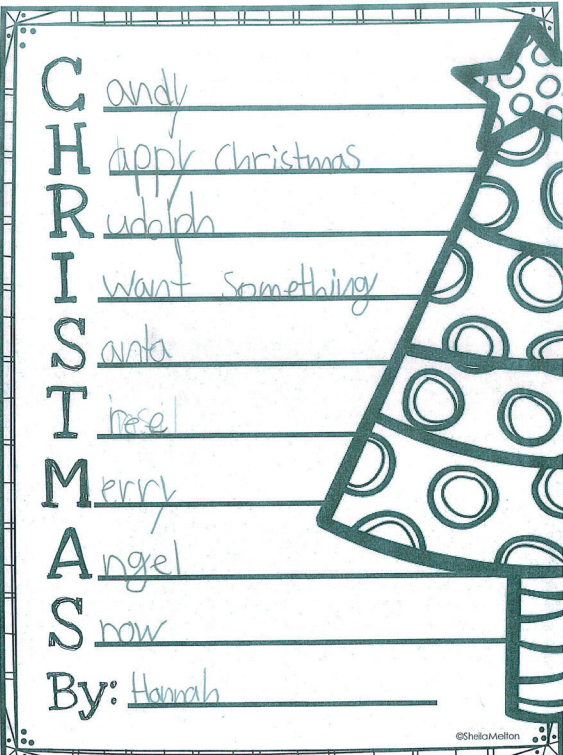
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5	2	6	4	1	3	9	8	7
1	7	8	5	2	9	3	4	6
9	3	4	6	7	8	2	5	1
3	9	1	8	5	4	7	6	2
6	5	2	9	3	7	8	1	4
4	8	7	2	6	1	5	9	3
2	6	3	1	9	5	4	7	8
7	4	5	3	8	6	1	2	9
8	1	9	7	4	2	6	3	5





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### Anglican Church Services Christmas Eve

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*St. James, Kinmount:*

4:00 PM

*St. Paul's, Minden:*

7:00 PM



## 560 ANNOUNCEMENTS



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640 IN MEMORIAM

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**Barbara Elizabeth Ayres**  
(nee Davis)  
August 14, 1939 – December 17, 2019

**Love You Forever**  
That's what you would always say to your grandchildren - Ollie and Lachie. How you would sign their Christmas and birthday cards; how you would end every phone conversation; or when you hugged and kissed them goodnight. As we approach the first, unbearable anniversary of you being gone, those 3 simple words remind us not only how much we miss you. They remind us of how deeply and unreservedly you loved them. And for that, we will – all of us - love you forever in return.

**Miss you.**  
**Lachlan, Ollie, Kim, Steve and Anita**





**In Loving Memory of**  
**Barbara Elizabeth Ayres (nee Davis)**  
August 14, 1939 - December 17, 2019

**One thing I'll have you do**  
**Walk slowly down that**  
**Long long Trail**  
**So I can follow you**

**I want to know each step you take**  
**So I can take the same**  
**For one day down that**  
**Long long trail**  
**You'll hear me call your name**

**“ Your Loving Husband Reg”**

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES

650 OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Ronald Allan Reid**  
*Died suddenly at home from a heart attack on December 10, 2020. Ron is survived by his children, Simon (Claire), Jody (Dan), Matt (Lisa), grandchildren, Avery, River, Quinn, Logan, Isaac, Kaden, Brady, and Juno, as well as his sister, Catherine Hodgins and his partner, Joan Pipher. He was predeceased by wife, Toos, and sister, Roxanne Shuter.*

Ron had incredible energy and approached each day with a positive attitude and willingness to help others. He was a man of great faith and would leave friends and strangers alike with a heartfelt ‘God Bless!’.

He was born in Picton, Ontario and was raised in “the county” which held a special place in his heart. Ron loved to go back to Prince Edward County to visit, camp, and explore.

Ron attended Trent University from 1966-1970. At Trent, he met many great friends through studying biology and playing rugger. This is where he met Toos, the love of his life and wife of 40 years. They were an incredible pair together and left their mark on so many people from so many walks of life.

In the spring of '76, Ron got a temporary position at the Dorset research centre as a freshwater lakes biologist. A nine month contract became a lifetime in the community.

He was never one to sit still. He always had a list and a project, and he always had a willing partner in Toos. To find him in his woods, you needed only to follow the sound of the chainsaw or wood splitter. He often wouldn't slow down until he was bleeding, sometimes a little, sometimes a lot! When he took on a new hobby he didn't do it halfway, whether it was raising cows and rabbits, cultivating garlic and gardens, staying active by rugger and baseball in his younger years and cycling and golf in the later years, giving back through H.A.V.E. and the Christmas Basket program, and of course taking over every bush he could to make maple syrup.

Ron was always up for an adventure, usually by car, canoe, or 4-wheeler. He was never hesitant to pick up the phone, drop in on a friend, or drive 1000 km to watch a game. He left an impression on everyone he came into contact with and always had a huge smile and bigger heart. He was never shy to show off his moves on the dance floor.

A couple of years ago, his sister, Cathy, introduced him to her friend, Joan, and he found in her a companion for his many adventures. They spent their time traveling between “the farm”, “the cottage” and Florida, meeting up with friends and family along the way.

We know that Ron was loved by so many. Due to the current pandemic, we will host a virtual visitation on Wednesday December 16th from 2-3 and 6-7. Please email the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. at info@gordonmonkfuneralhome.com to receive a scheduled virtual time slot with the Reid family.

A Private Memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON on Thursday, December 17th at 11:00 am. The service will be available virtually and details to attend will be available at [www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

A larger celebration of life will be held in Ron's memory when we are on the other side of this pandemic.

*In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either H.A.V.E. ([helpavillageeffort.org](http://helpavillageeffort.org)) . <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/8133> Interac e-transfers sent to [have@helpavillageeffort.org](mailto:have@helpavillageeffort.org). Please use the password: HAVE*




[www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com](http://www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com)

**Gartshore, Barbara Ann (nee Boice)**


It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Barb at Haliburton Hospital on Wednesday December 9th, 2020 at the age of 76. Beloved wife of Bev (predeceased by 2 months) for over 57 devoted years. Adored mother of Debbie (Jim) and Tim (Karen). Cherished Annin of Trevor and Samantha. Barb will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all her family and close friends.

Her laughter, kindness and love of life brought happiness to many. She was all about family and making memories for which we are all thankful to have to hold onto.

In keeping with Barb's wishes cremation has taken place. If desired memorial donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated. We would like to thank Dr. N. Thomas and all those at the Haliburton Hospital for taking such good care of Mom and Dad.



*Our thoughts go wandering,  
When daylight fades.  
To the land of long ago.  
And memory paints the scenes of old,  
In the gold of the twilight glow.  
We seem to see in the soft dim light,  
The faces we loved the best,  
And think of them when the sun's last ray,  
Goes down in the far off west.*



*Remember Them With Us*  
*The Times*  
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# The Times

Minden

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Mike Morris

Wednesday, November 21, 1984



Three members of the Minden Figure Skating Club returned recently from the Skokie Skate competition in Huntsville. The youngsters competed in a number of interpretive competitions. Lisa Carr, left, placed fifth in the event and also won a silver medal in the ladies B free skate category. Dianne Garbutt, centre, placed fourth in the junior interpretive event, while Sarah-Lee Henderson placed seventh in the intermediate interpretive event. The skating club is preparing for a busy season which will include the annual skating carnival.

## \$91,000 Wintario grant for snowmobile trails

A Wintario grant in the amount of \$91,306 has been received by the municipality of Dysart et al to assist in the purchase of snowmobile trail grooming equipment. The municipality received

word of the grant approval earlier this month.

The grant had been applied for by Dysart et al in conjunction with the municipalities of Anson,

Hindon and Minden, Lutterworth and Stanhope to assist in the maintenance of the existing snowmobile trail network. The trail system was established by the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association.

Earlier this year, the association turned to the municipalities for assistance in purchasing new equipment when it was realized that the costs of the

grooming equipment would be beyond the organization's budget.

The municipalities agreed to provide some support and also agreed to apply for Wintario funding for the

purchase of the new equipment. The HCSA had already received Wintario assistance in the past and was therefore ineligible for a further grant.

## Councils concerned over non-resident dump use

At least two municipal councils in Haliburton County are concerned about the use of landfill sites by residents from outside the municipality.

The issue was raised at the October 25 meeting of the Anson, Hindon and Minden council by Councillor Dave Stevens. He noted that an informal survey had shown that approximately 80% of the people who use the Scotch Line Landfill site do not live in the municipality.

He suggested that residents of the municipality could be issued a card which could be shown to the

attendant at the site and that residents who live outside the area could be charged a fee to dump refuse.

Deputy-reeve Ed Pergolas was the only member of council to agree to the suggestion, adding that cards should also be issued to residents of Dysart, Lutterworth and Stanhope Townships to allow those residents to use

the sites.

Reeve Lyle McKnight disagreed with the suggestion pointing out that many people who live outside the municipality contribute to the local economy by shopping in Minden. "We don't charge people to shop here, so we shouldn't charge people to use our dump," he said.

Councillor Gary Kenney suggested that people will use whichever dump is closest to their homes whether it is in their own municipality or not and added that a survey could be conducted to find out who uses the dump.

The survey, he noted, should not be used to restrict the use of the landfill site, but could be useful to municipal planners.

### Lutterworth concerns

The Lutterworth Council is also concerned about the dumping of refuse by residents who live outside the township. The issue was discussed at the November 15 council meeting.

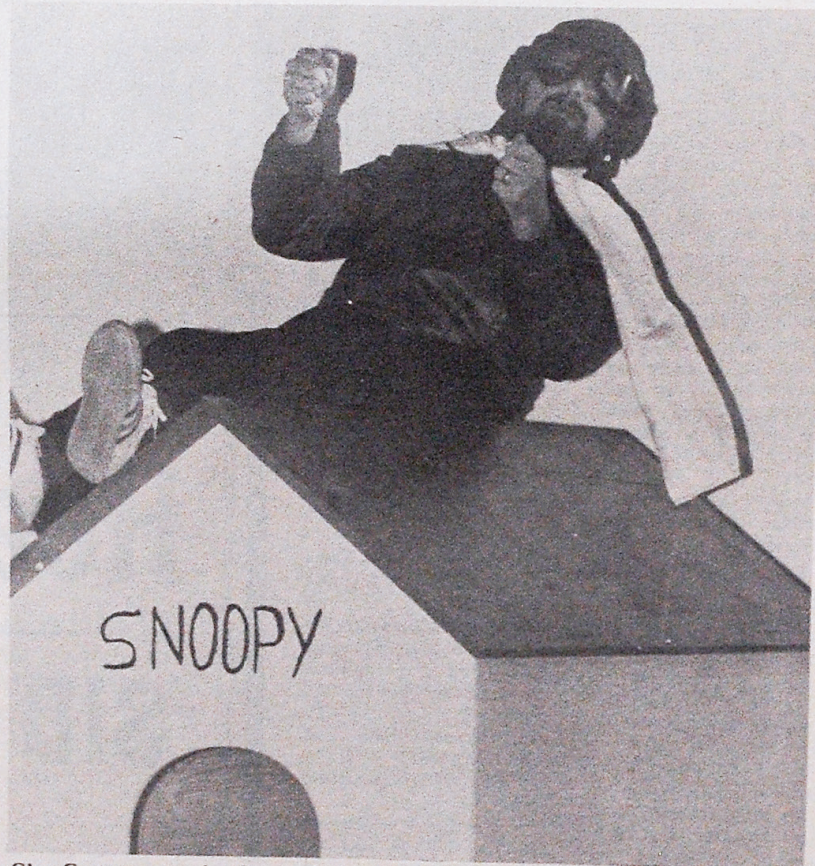
It was noted that residents and businesses from Minden are using the landfill site near North Pigeon Lake when the Scotch Line landfill site is closed to the public.

Although there was no serious concern expressed over the occasional use of the site by householders in Minden, there was criticism of the dumping of large volumes of garbage by contractors and retail outlets in Minden. It was also noted that since brush cannot be left at the Scotch Line site, residents of Minden township are dumping loads of brush at the Lutterworth site.

Council members agreed that the high volume of garbage that is being brought in to the township landfill site increases the workload of the municipal employees and will reduce the length of time the site can be used.

Although there are two

(more on page 2)



Glen Carter portraying Snoopy's Ace World War I pilot, banks his Sopwith Camel across the stage during the Highlands Little Theatre's presentation of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." For a report on the play, see page seven.

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he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

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Lindsay  
Elder\*\*



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& Anne Hodgson\*



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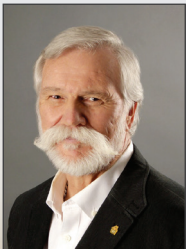
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